
CENTRAL REGION COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE SERVICES

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2003

12:45 p.m.

Presiding: Jan Cook, Vice Chair

Present: Susan Archibeque, Edward Armour, Allan Ayoub, Cynthia Brothers, Charles Daud, Greg Diven, Norman Fitzgerald, Kathleen Gage, Elizabeth Heath, Todd Henriksen, Paul Jackson, Douglas Johnston, Brad Maughan, Kathy Meyer (representing Russ Thelin), Karen Silver, Kerry Steadman, Dean Walker, Councilman David Wilde and Julie Zimmerman.

Excused: Jane Reister Conard, Brent Goodfellow, Stephen Goodrich, Bo Hall, John Hill, Stephen Ronnenkamp, Russ Thelin and Commissioner Gene D. White.

Absent: Deirdre Darby-Duffin, Richard Justice and Megan Weisen.

Guests/Volunteers: Edie Fauver, Josh Saenz and Gordon Swenson.

Staff: Sarah Brenna, Leno Franco, Jane Gardner, Diane Lovell, Melissa Olsen, Violet Smit, Curt Stewart, Yvette Woodland and Verene Froisland.

Call to Order & Announcements

Jan Cook, Council Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. Ms. Cook announced that Ms. Jane Reister Conard was excused due to her mother's illness.

Ms. Cook recognized Violet Smit who will be the Acting Manager of the Downtown Employment Center during Yvette Woodland's maternity leave. Ms. Woodland then introduced Ms. Smit by noting that she has been with the Department for over 15 years, is well versed in all of the programs and has greatly contributed to the success of the Downtown Employment Center.

Ms. Cook announced that Kathleen Gage has stepped down as Chair of the Marketing Committee due to her professional success and the demands of her business. She thanked Ms. Gage for her many contributions to the Council as Vice Chair and as Marketing Committee Chair, noting that Ms. Gage would continue to maintain her membership as an active member of the Council.

The Vice Chair then announced that Ed Armour has graciously agreed to accept the appointment as Chair of the Marketing Committee.

Ms. Cook noted that Karen Silver was elected as a new Council member in January and she has agreed to Chair the Basic Needs Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Paul Jackson moved to approve the Central Region Council Meeting minutes of Thursday, January 30, 2003. Julie Zimmerman seconded the motion. All voted "Aye" except Allan Ayoub who abstained. The motion passed.

Norm Fitzgerald moved to approve the Executive Committee Meeting minutes of Thursday, February 13, 2003. Edward Armour seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.

Ratification of Executive Committee Action

Ms. Cook stated that during the February 13th Executive Committee Meeting there was a request from Alan Cannaday, Director of the Salt Lake Community College Brownfields Minority Worker Training

Program, for a letter of supporting the Program's grant application for continued funding. The Executive Committee approved the request and a copy of the letter of support was included in the Council's Agenda packets. Ms. Cook then asked for a motion to ratify this action.

Paul Jackson moved to ratify the Executive Committee's action to provide a letter of support for the Salt Lake Community College Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program. Karen Silver seconded the motion.

Mr. Ayoub asked how successful the project is in getting people into apprenticeship programs since the focus is mainly on pre-apprenticeship?

Mr. Cannaday responded by stating that the program has placed approximately 30% of its trainees in apprenticeship programs.

Ms. Cook called for the vote. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.

Committee/Staff Reports

Membership – Ms. Cook asked for a motion to approve Todd Henriksen's nomination for Council membership. Mr. Henriksen is the Human Resources Manager for Envirocare of Utah.

Douglas Johnston moved to approve Todd Henriksen's nomination as a new member of the Central Region Council. Edward Armour seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.

Ms. Cook stated that all Council members will soon receive an e-mail from Jane Reister Conard inviting them to be a part of the Membership Committee. The committee will be meeting within the next few weeks to discuss and develop a more strategic approach to filling membership vacancies.

Ms. Cook then stated that the current membership vacancies consist of one large employer, one small employer and one public employer association.

Basic Needs – Ms. Silver stated that several months ago the Basic Needs Committee looked at the child care utilization at the Metro and Expo Mart (downtown) Employment Centers to see how well it was working and if it was a good "cost benefit" to the Department. As of last October the utilization rate was low and the Council agreed to continue childcare at the two sites through June 2003 with the goal of increasing utilization to 40%. Currently the rate at the Expo Mart Center is up to 30.23% utilization and the Metro office is still fairly low at a 16.07% utilization rate. Another update will be provided the Council in March or April.

Ms. Silver then stated that the Basic Needs Committee has also discussed the possibility of putting together a "Help Packet" for customers seeking assistance from DWS.

Government Relations – Sarah Brenna stated that the Department had four Bills that went through the Legislature this year and the following three have passed and are awaiting the Governor's signature.

The first was Senate Bill 11, which extended the membership of the Child Care Advisory Committee and gave them the ability to form a private nonprofit organization.

The second was Senate Bill 15, which increased the hours that the Department's Workforce Appeals Board Chair could work, from part time to full time, due to the an approximate 150% workload increase. This Bill also changed the wage contribution threshold from \$140 down to "wages paid". This change will help DWS facilitate an employer one-stop on the computer.

The third, House Bill 31, transfers the authority to collect public assistance overpayments (i.e. food stamps or child care) from the Office of Recovery Services to the Department of Workforce Services effective July 1, 2003. The Bill passed and is waiting for the Governor's signature.

The final Bill dealing with expanded eligibility for unemployment insurance claimants was changed and is now called Additional Benefits. This change adds five weeks of additional benefits after individuals exhaust their regular unemployment insurance benefits. These Additional Benefits will only be in effect from approximately June 2003 to December 2003. This Bill passed the House unanimously and will go to the Senate floor in the next few days.

Ms. Brenna touched on a few other issues related to the Legislature.

Marketing – Ms. Cook again recognized Ms. Gage and thanked her for all of her creativity and support and for her continued membership and involvement on the Council.

Mr. Armour stated that the Marketing Committee discussed the ongoing participation of the Council in the local area Chambers of Commerce. The Council has been participating as a way to market ongoing DWS programs and services. Mr. Armour also stated that participation in the local area Chambers has been an important networking resource for various 1000-Day Plan goals.

Mr. Armour then stated that the Marketing Committee discussed marketing Supervising Today's Workforce and felt that they could not act and make reasonable decisions about the profitability or non-profitability of the program due to the lack of specific fiscal information relative to staff's contribution to the program. This issue will be discussed further and the Marketing Committee will report back to the Council next month.

Mr. Armour continued by stating that the Committee discussed the Employer Summit and some of the marketing efforts that are ongoing. The Summit will be tied-in with Labor Day and will be held on September 25th. The event's theme will be "A Road to Success".

Mr. Ayoub asked if the Council will join the Tooele Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Armour responded in the affirmative.

Youth Council – There was no report at this time.

Fiscal Report – Leno Franco stated that he and Charles Daud, Finance Committee Chair discussed some new report formats that will be very informative for the Council and will be ready for distribution in the near future. Mr. Franco then stated that the Central Region has been fully staffed the past two payroll periods.

Finance – Mr. Daud encouraged all those interested in Finance issues to attend the Finance Committee meetings. Until further notice, the meetings will be held at 12:00 noon, immediately preceding the Council's monthly meetings. He then stated that he is continually learning and is anxious to have a full understanding of the Finance Committee.

Training & Development – Mr. Fitzgerald reported on the Council-sponsored Training Provider Fair held at the South County Employment Center on February 21, 2003. He stated that he did not stay the entire time; however, while he was there the room was full of vendors and individuals. Mr. Fitzgerald then noted that 24 schools were represented and approximately 70 staff members attended from around the region.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Training & Development Committee focused on issues related to the Supervising Today's Workforce (STW) Program. The Committee discussed the possibility of implementing a pre-registration process, which perhaps could entail a pre-registration discount and a cancellation penalty. The Committee felt that the problem with the declining enrollment in Supervising Today's Workforce is the economy. Mr. Fitzgerald continued by stating that the fiscal impact was discussed and that until such time as the operation of the program itself detracts from Ms. Lovell's other commitments, the Program's fiscal impact is not an item of concern. However, it was agreed that the Committee should be aware of the STW fiscal impact and should evaluate the program based on that

impact. Mr. Fitzgerald then stated that the Committee would like the Marketing Committee to address the issue of preparing a marketing plan for Supervising Today's Workforce.

Brad Maughan stated that he would like to attend the next Training & Development Committee meeting and walk through the fiscal ramifications prior to the Committee making any long-term decisions.

Mr. Armour suggested that the Marketing Committee could also attend the next Training & Development Committee meeting to discuss a marketing plan.

Ms. Cook felt that it was a good idea for the Training & Development Committee, Marketing Committee and Mr. Maughan to meet next month to discuss the financial aspects of STW and then move into the development of a marketing plan.

Facilities – Mr. Fitzgerald stated that a meeting was held between DWS and the Tooele County Commissioners. He was not involved with the meeting and therefore could not report on what happened.

Mr. Maughan asked Mr. Fitzgerald if he had been invited to the meeting.

Mr. Fitzgerald responded that he was not aware of the meeting and that it was a total surprise when he heard that a meeting had been held.

Mr. Maughan averred that he would make sure that such an oversight would not happen again.

Cynthia Brothers and Edward Armour expressed interest in the Tooele Employment Center meetings and asked to be invited to all future meetings.

Ms. Lovell stated that Ms. Brothers and Mr. Armour are on the Facilities Committee and will be notified of all future meetings related to the Tooele Employment Center.

April 24th Retreat Planning Committee Report

Ms. Cook stated that two possible locations are being considered – Shriner's Hospital or the new Salt Lake City Public Library. The location will be decided once a facilitator has been identified. Ms. Cook then stated that the April 24th Retreat will be an all day event starting at approximately 8:30 a.m. The Youth Council will also be invited to attend. Council members were encouraged to contact Ms. Cook with any suggestions for the Retreat.

Regional Director's Report

Ms. Cook stated that Mr. Maughan's scheduled Mid-Year Performance Presentation will be postponed until next month's meeting.

Mr. Maughan then reported on couple of important issues. He stated that Kerry Steadman was reading a recent Journal of Housing and Community Development and noticed that DWS received a \$3.8 million bonus from TANF. Mr. Maughan indicated that this is the third year in a row that DWS has received a bonus and that the \$3.8 million will go into the TANF general fund.

Mr. Maughan then addressed Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds, noting that WIA legislation authorized the creation of Workforce Investment Boards and Utah's Regional Councils. Mr. Maughan stated that national funding for WIA adult training stayed the same in 2003 - \$900 million and the same amount is proposed in the President's 2004 budget. Funds for 2003 youth training dropped from \$1.128 billion to approximately \$1 billion and the proposed budget for 2004 is \$1 billion. Dislocated Workers funding increased a little from \$1.129 billion in 2002 to \$1.157 billion in 2003. It rises an additional \$200 million in the proposed budget for 2004. Mr. Maughan then stated that the National Reserve would drop from \$360 million in 2003 to \$276 million in 2004.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Fitzgerald requested that the meeting discussed earlier between the Training & Development Committee, the Marketing Committee and Mr. Maughan begin at 11:30 a.m. to provide more time to discuss the issues.

Ms. Cook stated that she is concerned that the Council has lost momentum on the 1000-Day Plan. Therefore, she has taken on the responsibility to work with each of the Committees, prior to the April Retreat, to get an update on their accomplishments and remaining action steps.

Ms. Lovell expressed her appreciation to the Council for their thoughts and condolences due to the recent loss of her mother. She gave a special note of thanks to Melissa Olsen for helping out during the last Council meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.